

quiet streets, too, there is the same character of exclusive meanness to each house. What strange pride it is to forego so much extra comfort, to pay double rent, and live in sordid shabby state, for the mere satisfaction of being dubbed a householder, paying rent and taxes and possessing unshared, unquestioned, the key of one's own street door! Let us not believe such is the selfish disposition of the Englishman; it is not the will, but only the opportunity he lacks. When he has seen more of his continental friends, he will not scorn to take a note from them, and adopt their far more rational, far more economical system of habitation. It is statistically a fact that 75 per cent. of London houses are inhabited by more than one family: built upon the narrowest frontage, the smallest of them must be still too large for many of the poorer house seekers; they divide it, and how awkward, how inconvenient this division,—the one kitchen and one entrance are the scenes of perpetual contests for precedence, till the one party falls into the position of the victimised and ever-grumbling lodger,—the other ranks as the grinding and exacting landlord; and yet the remedy for this is easy. The poor-law union of the present day boasts the façade of a palace, why should not the dwelling of the honest workman claim some share of beauty and architectural effect,—suites of rooms, neatly, plainly furnished, well drained, well ventilated, opening to public corridors, and occasional staircases, might be encased in a front truly palatial, and yet form a safer investment for the capital of its proprietor than the tumperey house property of the present day. And there is another advantage in this: all the London houses of the present day are built upon erroneous constructive principles; the ground-floor is necessarily the least subdivided by partitions, the first floor more so, and the second most so; consequently it is impracticable, without great expense, to construct these partitions, hanging over voids, fire-proof, or even so far substantial that they should intercept the passage of sound; but when one range of chambers stand perpendicularly upon another these difficulties vanish, and the brick partition goes up cheaply, and solidly, to the roof.

London is yearly spreading wider the huge net of its entangled streets; one by one the fields and gardens of our suburbs merge into the brickfield, and soon into the little colony of villas: once the colony established, a market becomes its natural demand,—and it is the formation of this market that increases so visibly the size of London. The suburb, boasting its long rows of small but comfortable tenements, once the humble retreat of the retiring tradesman, in comparison with the colony beyond, soon loses its rustic reputation; the owner finds it his interest to seek more adventurous tenants, and one by one each house casts a proboscis forth, and in the shape of a long, low, narrow shop, covering the dull patch that once was dignified as the front garden, opens its greedy mouth to snatch the passing customer; and when in course of time each shop has thus stepped forth, the first has thrived so much that, taking down the little origin of all, he raises in its place another specimen of the gaudy compo-bedecked modern shop-front, and very soon the once wide foliated road becomes a narrow, money-grabbling street.

But London is already too extended for convenience or sociality; and it is with regret that we behold every fresh encroachment on the country round, unless, indeed, we could discover something superior to the slow, tedious system of communication of the present day. It were easy to imagine an Utopia of London, to build its river-terraces and palaces upon them, to project large thoroughfares for the relief of its over-crowded traffic, and to line them with public buildings, museums, and galleries of magnificent façades: but as easy in imagination so much the more impossible in execution; we must proceed in slower, surer steps—blunder no more over our public buildings—lose no opportunity of widening and straightening our streets—and, last of all, inculcate in the shop-keeper and petty landlord a sense of the advantage he will derive from the decorative improvement of his property; for it is useless to talk of art to those who regard as everything the world palpable and material, resolving itself to system,

to interest, to calculation, and despise those who would preserve in it some worship of the beautiful and ideal, and interpret some few words of that mute language which so mysteriously connects the world invisible with the world revealed.

F. CHAMBERS, JUN.

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

THE exterior of the tower of Trinity Church, Colchester (a very early work), has been partly stripped of its old coat of plaster: but it has been found that some of the material of which it is built, is so decayed, that the plaster must either be restored or a more substantial repair subscribed for. "The building," says the *Chelmsford Chronicle*, "now stands half stripped and in a very doleful predicament."

—The restorations in the parish church of Elsenham have been completed. The flat ceiling has been removed and the roof laid open from the interior. The pews have been replaced by benches with carved oak ends. The quaint old carved pulpit has been restored. The south porch, roofed to correspond with the church, has been renovated. The church and chancel floors have been laid with chequered Derbyshire tiles, black and red. These and other renovations have been made under the superintendence of Mr. Ollett, carver and builder, Norwich.—In laying down the water pipes at Boston, according to the *Lincolnshire Times*, the workmen have in several places met with the remains of the wooden pipes formerly used for the same purpose. Nothing is known of the time when these pipes were laid, but there can be but little doubt, it is thought, that more than 150 years have elapsed. The pipes appear to have been merely trunks of trees, hollowed in the centre, and made to fit into each other at the ends, where they were fastened together by some kind of cement.—Advertisements have been issued announcing the opening of a subscription for the restoration of Felmersham Church, Beds., at an estimated expense of 500*l.*, independently of the chancel and those necessary substantial repairs which will be borne by parish rate.—Trinity Church, Penn, Bucks., was consecrated on 1st inst. It is in the decorated style and cruciform in structure, with nave, chancel, two transepts, and a central tower surmounted by a spire, in all 135 feet high. Mr. Ferrey was the architect. The building has the advantage of a site on the verge of a large collection of beech trees, named Penn Wood. The east window, a decorated one, was presented by the Queen Dowager. There are also two other stained glass windows, executed by Mr. Willement, in the chancel.—Widley Church, Winchester, is about to be rebuilt in the Norman style, a sufficient sum (nearly 700*l.*) having been already subscribed. The architect is Mr. J. Colson, of Winchester, who, by the way, has just completed a school and master's house for Widley and Wymering, towards which Mr. T. Thistlewayte subscribed 300*l.*—A painted window in the chancel of Almondsbury Church, Gloucestershire, has just been put up by Mr. O'Connor, of Berners-street.—A stained glass east window has lately been placed in Wilton Church, near Taunton.—The temporary church, recently erected in the district of St. George, Kenwin, was opened on St. George's day. It is built of wood. The design is first-pointed, and consists of a chancel and nave, with sacristy on the south side. The exterior is plain. The dimensions are—Chancel, 19 feet by 20 feet; nave, 56 feet by 20 feet; height throughout 10 feet to the eaves, and 25 feet to the ridge. It will accommodate about 330 persons. The entire cost, we understand, will be, when completed, about 250*l.* The architect was Mr. White, of Truro.

—On lately removing the floor within the altar-rails of Sithney Church, Cornwall, the old Norman font was discovered. This piece of antiquity will probably be restored to its original purpose.—The Vicar of Whitechurch Canonorum, is to restore the parish church, which is a specimen of the architecture of twelfth century.—Mr. S. Hemming claims 38*l.* 1*7s.* from the Birmingham workhouse authorities, as remuneration for his plan of the new workhouse, accepted by the late board.—A plan for an erection for shelter on the

new landing stage at Liverpool, at an estimated cost of 1,000*l.*, is about to be carried into execution. A portion of the building will be let off as a refreshment room, and so nearly redeem the interest on the whole expense.—In addition to the large hotels forming the crescent at Buxton, an extensive inn is in course of erection there on the site of the old Angel Inn. The corner stone was laid on 1st inst., in presence of Mr. S. Worth, of Sheffield, architect, and others. The elevation will form a frontage of 150 feet in the richest Italian style.—An individual has just presented to St. Peter's Church, Derby, stained glass for the chancel window, which is of five lights, in the perpendicular style, and richly traceried.—A new church is about being erected at Derby on a portion of inclosed land formerly called Nunn Green. To judge from the plan, it will probably accommodate, without galleries, about 300 persons. Subscriptions are offered for another new church, training-school, and national school, to each of which two gentlemen have handsomely contributed 100*l.* each, making 600*l.* A new entrance is about being formed to the Arboretum, at which a lodge will be erected. An extra room for the accommodation of visitors is also being built.—A portion of the foundation of the walls of the Victoria Dock entrance lock into the Humber has settled down into the ground, and until the water is again drawn off, the extent of the repair which will be needed cannot exactly be ascertained.—The works for a new congregational church to be built at Berwick were let on the 23rd ult. The building is to be erected under the superintendence of Mr. T. Oliver, architect, Sunderland. It is in the Early English style, and has a bell-turret on the west gable. The following is a list of the tenders, and a pretty specimen of estimating:—

1st class	£1,428 15 0
2nd ditto	1,134 0 4
3rd ditto	1,032 13 6
4th ditto	979 5 0
5th ditto	949 2 0
6th ditto	793 15 9

As the works were tendered for separately, and not in all cases by the same parties, the sums have been classified. The lowest estimates have not been accepted.

IRON HOUSES.

A CONSIDERABLE number of iron houses and warehouses have been lately shipped to California from Liverpool and other towns. One of these structures has just been erected by Messrs. Edward T. Bellhouse and Co., of Manchester, for Messrs. Pim and Roberts, who are proceeding to San Francisco.

The total length is 60 feet, the width 24 feet, the height to the eaves 10 feet, and to the ridge 17 feet. There is a partition of iron 15 feet from one end, forming a compartment for a dwelling-house; the remainder is for a warehouse, 45 feet by 24 feet. The foundation is formed by a strong framework of timber, upon which is screwed a moulded base of cast-iron, rising 6 inches. The uprights and principals of the roof are formed of wrought iron of the T section, the roof principals being strongly trussed. The plates, in lengths of 4, 5, and 6 feet, by 2 feet 6 inches in width, and $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch in thickness, are bolted to the uprights and to the principals of the roof by $\frac{1}{2}$ bolts, and to each other by lap joints with bolts $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch in diameter.

The doors are of wrought iron, framed with angle iron, and the windows and skylights are of cast-iron. The mode of construction, and the care taken in the execution of the work, make it a remarkably stiff and substantial edifice. This is an example of the celerity with which these erections can be fitted up, as the iron of which this house is made was received only a fortnight before the day of completion of the work.

VERY MODEST.—A petition has been presented to the House of Commons from certain parties, stating that great injury was done to the public morals in consequence of the objectionable character of some of the pictures in the National Gallery, and praying that the objectionable portions might be painted over or expunged.